

NEARLY \$600,000 IN FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS WILL BUILD FIBER OPTICS TO THE HOME IN THE ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY

10 New Computer Workstations will be Added to the St. Charles Community Center

WASHINGTON (Washington, DC) -U.S. Representative Rick Boucher announced today that, at his urging, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Rural Utilities Service, is providing a federal grant in the amount of \$594,000 to the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission to build a fiber to the home broadband network in the St. Charles community of Lee County.

“Residents and businesses in St. Charles currently have no access to broadband services. Rather, local residents and businesses are reliant on much slower methods of accessing the Internet to conduct business or for personal use. With the federal funding announced today, the LENOWISCO PDC will deploy fiber optic cable from its Internet backbone, across the ‘last mile,’ into homes and businesses in the Town of St. Charles,”

Boucher explained

In addition to the broadband services which will become available, the grant will be used to purchase 10 new computer workstations for the St. Charles Community Center, which will provide high-speed Internet access to library patrons.

The funding will also provide free broadband service for two years for the St. Charles Elementary School, the St. Charles Fire Department and the Rescue Squad, as well as three Stone Mountain Health Clinics: St. Charles Community Health Clinic, St. Charles Respiratory Care (Black Lung) Clinic, and St. Charles Dental Clinic. Boucher noted that the new broadband services will greatly improve Internet access and promote economic development in the community.

“The economic development of Southwest Virginia is my top priority. With the federal funding I have announced today, high-speed Internet services will soon become available to the residents and business owners of the St. Charles community. This is another step in bringing broadband services to all of Lee County and will open many new doors to expand and stimulate the County's economy,” Boucher concluded.

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